

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
 - receiving a number of facial feature designations;
 - generating element codes corresponding to the facial feature designations,
 - each element code based on:
 - (a) a symbol representative of a facial feature, the symbol having one of a plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature, and
 - (b) a first code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum value of the plurality of values indicative of the variations of the facial feature; and
 - displaying a composite image based on the element codes corresponding to the facial feature designations.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving step includes:
 - displaying a plurality of facial feature images; and
 - receiving user signals selecting facial feature images included in the composite image.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein displaying the composite image includes:
 - displaying the facial feature images in the composite image as the images are selected by the user signals, the images corresponding to respective ones of the element codes.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the facial feature images in the composite image are displayed at predetermined positions relative to one another when selected.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
receiving user modification signals for changing at least one of a size, shape, or position of at least one of the facial feature images in the composite image.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the user signals are generated by an input device.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the input device includes one of a touch screen, a mouse, a pointing device, and a keyboard.

8. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the plurality of facial feature images are displayed in separate classes.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving step includes:
displaying information corresponding to a plurality of classes of facial features; and
receiving user signals designating facial features in the composite image, each user signal designating a facial feature from a respective one of the classes.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said information includes a plurality of groups of facial feature images, each group corresponding to a respective one of the classes.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the classes of facial features are selected from the group comprising eyes, nose, mouth, jaw line, hair, beard, mustache, lips, skin pigment, face shape, and identifying features.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the identifying features include at least one of a scar, tattoo, birth mark, glasses, and jewelry.

13. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
displaying facial feature images on a first area of a screen; and
displaying a composite facial image on a second area of the screen, said composite image including facial feature images selected from the first screen area, wherein selection of each facial feature image automatically generates a corresponding element code based on:

(a) a symbol representative of a facial feature, the symbol having one of a plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature, and
(b) a first code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum value of the plurality of values indicative of the variations of the facial feature, wherein the composite facial image is displayed based on a combination of element codes corresponding to the selected facial feature images.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the images are displayed in classes in the first screen area, each class corresponding to a different type of facial feature.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein each class of images is separately displayed in the first screen area in response to a user signal selecting the class.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the classes of images are selected from the group comprising eyes, nose, mouth, jaw line, hair, beard, mustache, lips, skin pigment, face shape, and identifying features.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein selecting a facial feature image in the first screen area causes the facial feature image to be displayed in the second screen area.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the selected facial feature is displayed at a predetermined position in the second screen area relative to other facial feature images in the composite image.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein selecting a facial feature in the first screen area causes the facial feature to appear in the second screen area.

20. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

displaying a composite facial image in a first screen area;
displaying a group of facial feature images in a second screen area; and
automatically modifying the composite facial image in the first screen area
based on a selection of a facial feature image in the second screen area, each of the facial
feature images corresponding to an element code based on:

- (a) a symbol representative of a facial feature, the symbol having one
of a plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature, and
- (b) a first code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum
value of the plurality of values indicative of the variations of the facial feature, wherein
the composite facial image is based on a combination of element codes including an
element code corresponding to the selected facial feature image.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the group includes more than
one facial feature image.

22. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a processor which generates a composite image based on user signals
designating a number of facial features, the processor automatically generating element
codes corresponding to the designated facial features, each element code based on:

- (a) a symbol representative of a facial feature, the symbol having one
of a plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature,
and

(b) a first code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum value of the plurality of values indicative of the variations of the facial feature; and

a screen which displays the composite image based on the element codes corresponding to the designated facial features.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein the screen displays a plurality of facial feature images based on the element codes and the processor generates the composite image based on facial feature images selected by the user signals.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the screen displays the facial feature images in the composite image as the images are selected by the user signals.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the processor controls display of the facial feature images at predetermined positions on the screen.

26. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the processor modifies at least one of a size, shape, or position of the facial feature images in the composite image based on user modification signals.

27. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising:
an input device which generates the user signals.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the input device includes one of a touch screen, a mouse, a pointing device, and a keyboard.

29. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the screen displays the plurality of facial feature images in separate classes.

30. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the screen displays information corresponding to a plurality of classes of facial features, and wherein each user signal designates a facial feature from a respective one of the classes.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein said information includes a plurality of groups of facial feature images, each group corresponding to a respective one of the classes.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the classes of facial features are selected from the group comprising eyes, nose, mouth, jaw line, hair, beard, mustache, lips, skin pigment, face shape, and identifying features.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the identifying features include at least one of a scar, tattoo, birth mark, glasses, and jewelry.

34. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a screen; and

a processor for controlling the screen to display a number of facial feature images on a first area of a screen and to display a composite facial image on a second area of the screen, said composite image including facial feature images selected from the first screen area, the processor automatically generating element codes corresponding to the selected facial feature images, each element code based on:

(a) a symbol representative of a facial feature, the symbol having one of a plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature, and

(b) a first code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum value of the plurality of values indicative of the variations of the facial feature, the composite image based on element codes corresponding to the selected facial feature images.

35. (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein the images are displayed in classes in the first screen area, each class corresponding to a different type of facial feature.

36. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein each class of images is separately displayed in the first screen area in response to a user signal selecting the class.

37. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the classes of images are selected from the group comprising eyes, nose, mouth, jaw line, hair, beard, mustache, lips, skin pigment, face shape, and identifying features.

38. (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein selecting a facial feature image in the first screen area causes the facial feature image to be displayed in the second screen area.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein the selected facial feature is displayed at a predetermined position in the second screen area relative to other facial feature images in the composite image.

40. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

 a screen which displays a composite facial image in a first area and a group of facial feature images in a second area; and

 a processor which modifies the composite facial image in the first screen area based on a selection of a facial feature image in the second screen area, each of the facial feature images corresponding to an element code based on:

 (a) a symbol representative of a facial feature, the symbol having one of a plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature, and

 (b) a first code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum value of the plurality of values indicative of the variations of the facial feature, wherein

the composite facial image is based on a combination of element codes including an element code corresponding to the selected facial feature image.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program comprising:

a first code section which causes a processor to recognize a number of facial feature designations;

a second code section which generates element codes corresponding to the facial feature designations, each element code based on:

(a) a symbol representative of a facial feature, the symbol having one of a plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature, and

(b) a first code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum value of the plurality of values indicative of the variations of the facial feature; and

a third second code section which causes a screen to display a composite image based on element codes corresponding to the facial feature designations.

42. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program comprising:

a first code section which causes a screen to display facial feature images on a first area; and

a second code section which causes the screen to display a composite facial image on a second area, said composite image including facial feature images selected from the first screen area, wherein selection of each facial feature image causes the second code section to automatically generate a corresponding element code based on:

- (a) a symbol representative of a facial feature, the symbol having one of a plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature, and
- (b) a first code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum value of the plurality of values indicative of the variations of the facial feature, wherein the composite facial image is displayed based on a combination of element codes corresponding to the selected facial feature images.

43. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program comprising:

a first code section which displays a composite facial image in a first screen area;

a second code section which displays a group of facial feature images in a second screen area; and

a third code section which modifies the composite facial image in the first screen area based on a selection of a facial feature image in the second screen area, wherein the composite facial image is formed from a plurality of facial feature images including the selected facial feature image, each facial feature image represented by an element code based on:

(a) a symbol representative of a facial feature, the symbol having one of a plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature, and

(b) a first code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum value of the plurality of values indicative of the variations of the facial feature.

44. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the element codes further includes:

an image qualifier having one of a plurality of values indicative of variations of a position of the facial feature in the composite image; and

a second code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum value of the plurality of values indicative of the variations of the position of the facial feature in the composite image.